

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 01256 221248Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03 IO-13 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 PER-01
SCS-03 SCA-01 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /100 W
-----221304Z 011814 /44

O R 221119Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 900
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION SINAI
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
USIA WASHDC

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, EG
SUBJ: CAIRO SITREP: 1200 LOCAL, JAN 22

REF CAIRO 1184,

SUMMARY: SADAT SURFACES IN JAN 22 PRESS AFTER FOUR DAYS
PUZZLING SILENCE. CAIRO PRESS, GOE SPOKESMEN, AND MUSLIM
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LEADERS HAVE FIXED ON TWO THEMES IN AFTERMATH RIOTING:
COMMUNISTS WERE THE SOLE PROVOCATEURS AND WEALTHY ARABS
HAVE MORAL DUTY PROVIDE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO WAR-IM-
POVERISHED EGYPT. STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FROM ARAB LEADERS
FEATURED IN PRESS. CAIRO BACK TO NORMAL, THOUGH TROOPS STILL
POSTED THROUGHOUT CITY. END SUMMARY

1. CAIRO QUIET: ALTHOUGH TROOPS STILL STATIONED AT STRATEGIC POINTS THROUGHOUT CITY AND CONTROLLING ACCESS TO METROPOLITAN AREA, CAIRO SEEMS TO HAVE RETURNED TO NORMAL, AT LEAST ON SURFACE. FOR FIRST TIME SINCE RIOTING BEGAN JAN 18, TRAFFIC IS AS HEAVY AS USUAL, SHOPS ARE OPEN, AND THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF CURFEW VIOLATIONS LAST NIGHT. CINEMAS WILL OPEN TODAY, BUT NOT THEATERS, SINCE LATTER'S 2100 OPENING TIME CONFLICTS WITH 2200 CURFEW. THERE IS HOPE CURFEW WILL END BEFORE LONG.

2. SADAT SURFACES: FOR FIRST TIME SINCE RIOTING BEGAN JAN 18, PRESS JAN 22 CARRIES PHOTO OF HIM, LOOKING RESOLUTE AND RATHER TIRED, AS HE CONFERES WITH VP MUBARAK. ALL PAPERS CARRY SAME PICTURE, TOGETHER WITH REPORT OF "EXTREMELY IMPORTANT" MEETING SADAT WILL CHAIR MORNING JAN 22 WITH VP, PRIMIN SALIM, SPEAKER MAR'I, FONMIN FAHMY, MINWAR GAMASY, AND ASU HEAD KHALIL. (NO ECONOMIC MINISTERS REPORTED ATTENDING, BUT NAMES LISTED ARE MEMBERS OF "NSC", WHICH NORMALLY MEETS EVERY SATURDAY MORNING.) AFTER FIVE DAYS OF NO REPORTING ON PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITIES, IMAGE OF DETERMINED LEADERSHIP NOW APPARENTLY BEING PROJECTED TO FILL PUZZLING VACUUM OF AUTHORITY. RUMORS ABOUND THAT SADAT MAY SOON MAKE PUBLIC ADDRESS.

3. COMMUNISTS AND ARAB AID: OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL GOE SPOKESMEN, INCLUDING EDITORIAL WRITERS, HAVE FIXED ON TWO THEMES IN AFTERMATH OF RIOTING: ARABS OWE EGYPT FINANCIAL AID AND COMMUNISTS FOMENTED RIOTS AGAINST GOE AND AGAINST ISLAM.

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4. ARAB SUPPORT: PRESS GIVES CONSIDERABLE PLAY TO MANIFESTATIONS ARAB SUPPORT FOR SADAT AND EGYPTIAN ECONOMY. KING KHALID'S TELEGRAM CITED IN FULL ("YOU HAVE FULL SUPPORT OF MYSELF AND ALL MY BROTHERS"), AS IS SADAT'S REPLY ("..WITH BACKING OF OUR FRIENDS, EGYPT CAN SURMOUNT SUCH TRANSIENT MATTERS"). TELEPHONE CALLS FROM ASAD AND SUDANESE VP (ON BEHALF OF NIMAIRI) ARE) ARE FEATURED. ALLEGED KUWAITI PRESS CALL FOR URGENT ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL AID TO EGYPT IS ALSO CARRIED IN ALL PAPERS.

5. ISLAM ENLISTED: CALLING OUT ITS MOST PRETIGIOUS MUSLIM VOICE, GOE PUT SHAYKH AL-AZHAR IN THE PULPIT OF CAIRO'S CENTRAL HUSSAINI MOSQUE YESTERDAY. SHAYKH PLAYED HARD ON GOE'S TWO THEMES: (A) WEALTHY ARABS OWE ECONOMIC AID TO EGYPT AS PARTIAL REIMBURSEMENT "FOR WHAT EGYPT HAS SPENT ON THEM"; (B) COMMUNISTS, NOT DECENT EGYPTIANS, WERE BEHIND RIOTING; COMMUNISTS STRIKE AT ISLAM BY EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS.

6. LATEST STATISTICS: MININT FIGURES NOW LIST 1270 DETAINED FOR INCITING CROWDS AND ENGAGING IN SABOTAGE; 1063 DETAINED ON "OTHER" GROUNDS. ALLEGED CONFESSIONS AND DOCUMENTS SHOW "EGYPTIAN COMMUNIST WORKERS PARTY" INTENDED BURN STRATEGIC BUILDINGS IN CAIRO, ALEX AND MINYA. A FEW INDIVIDUALS REPORTED RELEASED, MOSTLY JUVENILES INTO THEIR PARENT'S CUSTODY. OFFICIAL REPORTS OF DAMAGE ARE EXTENSIVE, E.G., 53 TROLLEYS, 47 TRAM UNITS, 300 BUSES IN CAIRO; 38 GOVT ESTABLISHMENTS, 15. PRIVATE FIRMS, ENTIRE TRAIN, 32 GOVT VEHICLES AND "ALL RAILWAY TRAFFIC SIGNALS" IN ALEXANDRIA.

4. ALL AMCITS SAFE, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE. AMCIT PROPERTY SUFFERED NO SERIOUS DAMAGE; WE HAVE A FEW REPORTS OF MINOR INCIDENTS ONLY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Executive Order: N/A
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TAGS: PINT, EG, (SADAT, ANWAR)
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